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CLAIMS

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1. A paving block for use in the construction of a paved surface, which paving block has an upper surface, a lower surface and side and end lateral surfaces extending between the upper and lower surfaces and contacting in use at least part of a lateral surface of at least one adjacent paving block, wherein a substantial portion of at least two lateral surfaces of the paving block extending to the upper surface are tapered along the entirety of the edge between the upper surface and the lateral surface, and at least one of the lateral surfaces has a channel providing communication from the upper surface to the lower surface when the block is placed in abutting contact with another block in use thereof

2. A paving block according to Claim 1, wherein the portion of a lateral surface which is tapered extends over 10% to 80% of the entire height of the lateral surface.

a 3. A paving block according to ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the angle at which the tapered portion extends with respect to the remaining portion of the lateral

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surface is greater than  $0^\circ$  and less than  $15^\circ$ .

a 4. A paving block as claimed in any of <sup>claim</sup>~~claims~~ 1 to 3, in which all lateral surfaces of the paving block have at least one channel therein.

a 5. A paving block as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ Claim <sup>1</sup>, in which the or each channel is wider than it is deep.

a 10 6. A paving block as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ Claim <sup>1</sup>, in which the depth of the or each channel is not greater than about 5mm.

a 7. A paving block as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ Claim <sup>1</sup>, in which the material from which the block is made is impermeable.

~~Sub A1~~  
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8. A paving surface for the management of rainwater, floodwater or liquid spillage having a permeable layer on a supporting substrate layer, which supporting substrate layer is permeable to liquid and is of particulate material providing interstitial cavities for receiving rainwater, floodwater or spillage draining through the permeable layer, wherein the permeable layer is constructed at least partially by the close-fitting

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without joint filling of a plurality of paving blocks as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 7.

9. A paving surface according to Claim 8, wherein the permeable layer is formed substantially entirely by tapered paving blocks.

10. A paving surface according to <sup>Claim</sup> ~~Claims 8 or 9~~, wherein the permeable layer is formed from a mixture of tapered paving blocks and conventional paving blocks.

11. A paving surface according to any of Claims 8 to 10, which is additionally provided with a filtering layer between the permeable layer and the substrate layer.

12. A paving surface according to Claim 11, which is additionally provided with a dispersing layer between the permeable layer and the filtering layer.

13. A paving surface according to any of Claims 8 to 12, wherein the supporting substrate layer is contained within a containment membrane of impermeable material.

14. A paving surface according to Claim 13, which is provided with one or more dividing means for dividing

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sections within the containment membrane.

- ~ 15. A paving surface according to <sup>Claim</sup>~~Claims~~ 13 ~~or 14~~,  
wherein means are provided for the drainage of fluid  
5 contained within the containment membrane.

- Sub A4  
16. A paving surface as claimed in ~~any~~ of Claims 8 to  
15, in which the paving blocks are made from an  
impermeable material.
- add B3

Sub A5